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"SO imperfect are all the accounts of AMERICA hitherto publiſhed, even by thoſe who once excluſively poſſeſſed the beſt means of information, that from them very little knowledge of this country can be acquired. Europeans have been the ſole writers of American Geography, and have too often ſuffered fancy to ſupply the place of facts, and thus have led their readers into errors, while they profeſſed to aim at removing their ignorance. But ſince the United States have become an independent nation, and have riſen into Empire, it would be reproachful for them to ſuffer this ignorance to continue; and the reſt of the world have a right now to expect authentic information. To furniſh this has been the deſign of the author of the following work; but he does not pretend that this deſign is compleated, nor will the judicious and candid expect it, when they conſider that he has trodden, comparatively, an unbeaten path—that he has had to collect a vaſt variety of materials—that theſe have been widely ſcattered—and that he could derive but little aſſiſtance from books already publiſhed. Four years have been employed in this work, during which period, the Author has viſited the ſeveral ſtates in the Union, and maintained an extenſive correſpondence with men of Science; and in every inſtance has endeavoured to derive his information from the moſt authentic ſources: he has alſo ſubmitted his manuſcripts to the inſpection of Gentlemen in the ſtates, which they particularly deſcribed, for their correction. It is poſſible, notwithſtanding, and indeed very probable, that inaccuracies may have crept in; but he hopes there are none of any great importance, and that ſuch as may be obſerved, will not be made the ſubject of ſevere cenſure, but aſcribed to ſome pardonable cauſe. He flatters himſelf, however, that the work now offered to the public, will be found to be as accurate, compleat, and impartial, as the preſent ſtate of American Geography and Hiſtory could furniſh. After all, like the nation of which it treats, it is but an infant, and as ſuch ſolicits the foſtering care of the country it deſcribes; it will grow and improve as the nation advances towards maturity, and the Author will gratefully acknowledge every friendly communication which will tend to make it perfect.

"In the proſecution of the work, he has aimed at utility rather than originality, and of courſe, when he has met with publications ſuited to his purpoſe, he has made a free uſe of them; and he thinks it proper here to obſerve, that, to avoid unneceſſary trouble, he has frequently uſed the words as well as the ideas of the writers, although the reader has not been particularly apprized of it.

"For the Author diſtinctly to acknowledge the obligations he is under to many citizens of theſe ſtates, as well as to ſome foreigners of diſtinction, reſidents among us, would ſwell this preface to an improper length; he cannot forbear, however, to expreſs his peculiar obligation to EBENEZER HAZARD, ESQ. Poſt-Maſter-General of the United States, for permiſſion of free acceſs to his very large and valuable *Collection* of papers, from which he has derived much of his hiſtorical information. This collection has been made with unwearied care and minute exactneſs; and the papers, which are of unqueſtionable authenticity, are the beſt, and moſt complete *depoſitum* of facts relating to the hiſtory of America from its firſt ſettlement, that is to be found in the United States. The Author's acknowledgments are likewiſe eſpecially due to Captain THOMAS HUTCHINS,

HUTCHINS, Geographer-General of the United States, for his particular friendſhip and aſſiſtance.

" It is to be regretted, that ſo few Maps could be introduced into the work; but the Author hopes to be enabled to increaſe the number in future Editions. The Map of the Southern States, was compiled from original and authentic documents, by Mr. JOSEPH PURCELL, of *Charleſton, South-Carolina*, a Gentleman fully equal to the undertaking, and is the moſt accurate yet publiſhed reſpecting that country, on ſo ſmall a ſcale. The Map of the Northern States was compiled principally by the Engraver, from the beſt Maps that could be procured; it was chiefly deſigned to give the reader an idea of the relative ſituation, and comparative extent of the ſeveral ſtates and countries comprehended within its limits.

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Number of Repreſentatives from the ſeveral States.—Schedule of the Number of Perſons in the United States.—Table of Diſtances between the principal Towns in the United States.

THE following Account of MORSE'S *AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY, is extracted from the Monthly Review of Auguſt* 1791.

'Although as a nation, and as fellow-ſubjects, we are for ever diſjoined from our American brethren, yet, as ſharers with them in the general intereſts

intereſts of humanity, we cannot be indifferent ſpectators of the rapid progreſs which they are making, in every thing which concerns the proſperity of ſociety, and the happineſs of individuals. Since the commencement of their political exiſtence as an independent ſtate, they have undergone ſuch material changes, that all former deſcriptions of America are now grown obſolete. If we wiſh to become acquainted with its preſent political, commercial, literary, or eccleſiaſtical ſtate, we muſt no longer conſult Britiſh writers, but have recourſe for information to the Americans themſelves.

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'It is impoſſible that we ſhould enter largely into the numerous details compriſed in this volume. The hiſtorical part of the work, particularly the narrative of the riſe and progreſs of the new conſtitution, is well digeſted, and contains ſome particulars little known in Europe. On the heads of natural produce, agriculture, manufactures, military and marine ſtrength, religious ſects, learning, &c. it abounds with intereſting information: but we muſt confine ourſelves to a few extracts, concerning the ſtate of learning and education; which, as members of the univerſal republic of letters, we have peculiar pleaſure in copying, and which will, we doubt not, be highly acceptable to all who have philanthropy ſufficient to wiſh for the general extenſion of knowledge, even though it ſhould be at the expence of ſome of thoſe narrow ſyſtems of policy, which contracted views and perſonal intereſts have created.

'There are in New-Jerſey two colleges; in Philadelphia, the American Philoſophical Society, and an univerſity; at Cheſtertown, in Maryland, Waſhington College, inſtituted in 1782, with a fund of 1250l. per year; and at Annapolis, St. John's College, inſtituted in 1784, with a fund of 1750l. per year; in Virginia, the College of William and Mary, inſtituted about the year 1700; and new inſtitutions in South Carolina and Georgia.

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